

State of Alaska
FY2010 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Health and Social Services
Senior Benefits Payment Program
Component Budget Summary

Component: Senior Benefits Payment Program

Contribution to Department's Mission

The Senior Benefits program helps low-income seniors who are at least 65 years of age remain independent in the community by providing a cash benefit.

Core Services

- The Senior Benefits program provides monthly cash assistance to needy seniors. Payments are \$125.00, \$175.00, or \$250.00 per month depending on the senior's gross annual income. Income limits are tied to Alaska's Federal Poverty Level Guidelines, which are adjusted every year.

FY2010 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

FY2010 Component Budget: \$19,859,400

Personnel:

Full time	6
Part time	0
Total	6

Key Component Challenges

- Continued growth in the Senior Benefit caseload is expected. Initial estimates were that 10,700 seniors would qualify for assistance under this new program by FY09. The caseload reached almost 9,000 by July 2008. It is expected that potentially eligible seniors will continue to apply for benefits as they become aware of the program through further outreach efforts.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2010

The division estimates program enrollment will reach 10,221 in FY10 as more seniors learn about the program and apply, and that the caseload will grow at a slower rate in future years in accordance with population demographics.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2008

- Implemented the new Senior Benefits Program in August 2007.
- Successfully reenrolled 7,000 SeniorCare recipients to the new program with no interruption in assistance, and found an additional 2,000 senior applicants eligible for assistance.
- About 5,100 seniors are receiving their benefits via direct deposit.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 47.45.301-.309 Senior Benefits Program
 7 AAC 47.545-.599 Senior Benefits Program

Contact Information

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**Senior Benefits Payment Program
Component Financial Summary**

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2008 Actuals	FY2009 Management Plan	FY2010 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	0.0	460.2	474.2
72000 Travel	0.0	9.7	9.7
73000 Services	0.0	169.7	169.7
74000 Commodities	0.0	43.5	43.5
75000 Capital Outlay	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Benefits	0.0	19,662.3	19,162.3
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	0.0	20,345.4	19,859.4
Funding Sources:			
1004 General Fund Receipts	0.0	20,345.4	19,859.4
Funding Totals	0.0	20,345.4	19,859.4

**Summary of Component Budget Changes
From FY2009 Management Plan to FY2010 Governor**

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2009 Management Plan	20,345.4	0.0	0.0	20,345.4
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-FY2010 Wage and Health Insurance Increases for Bargaining Units with Existing Agreements	14.0	0.0	0.0	14.0
Proposed budget decreases:				
-General Fund Decrement for Senior Benefits Payment Program	-500.0	0.0	0.0	-500.0
FY2010 Governor	19,859.4	0.0	0.0	19,859.4

Senior Benefits Payment Program Personal Services Information				
Authorized Positions			Personal Services Costs	
	<u>FY2009</u> <u>Management</u> <u>Plan</u>	<u>FY2010</u> <u>Governor</u>		
Full-time	6	6	Annual Salaries	251,148
Part-time	0	0	COLA	11,865
Nonpermanent	0	0	Premium Pay	40,718
			Annual Benefits	171,971
			<i>Less 0.32% Vacancy Factor</i>	(1,502)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
Totals	6	6	Total Personal Services	474,200

Position Classification Summary					
Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Administrative Clerk II	0	0	0	1	1
Elig Technician I	0	0	0	4	4
Elig Technician III	0	0	0	1	1
Totals	0	0	0	6	6